

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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CORRECTION ISSUED

3/13/59

Action

Control:

8773

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Rec'd:

MARCH 13, 1959

8:04 P.M.

Info

FROM: LONDON - CORRECTED PAGE 1

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 4753, MARCH 13, 7 P.M.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 4753, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 743, BONN 307, MOSCOW 201, BERLIN 100.

PARIS FOR EMB, USRO AND THURSTON

REF DEPTTEL 3348 TO PARIS. FROM DISCUSSION WITH PARLIAMEN-
TARIANS, SERVICE OFFICERS IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
AND FROM RETICENCES OF FOREIGN OFFICE PERSONNEL,
EMB BELIEVES THAT SENTENCE IN REFTTEL SUMMARIZES ESSENCE
OF OPPOSITION TOWARD WHICH BRITISH ARE MOVING: NAMELY,
"TRADING BERLIN SOLUTION FOR ACCEPTANCE STATUS QUO
OF CONTINUED DIVISION GERMANY."

IT SEEMS TO US THAT BRITISH HAVE FAILED TO ANALYZE
VERY CLOSELY CONSEQUENCES OF OPEN ACCEPTANCE OF STATUS
QUO, EITHER WITH REGARD TO RETAINING SUPPORT OF GERMAN
PUBLIC OPINION OR WITH REGARD TO EFFECT OF INCREASED
SENSE OF SECURITY AND SELF CONFIDENCE WHICH THIS WOULD
GIVE TO RUSSIANS IN EASTERN EUROPE (AND SUBSEQUENTLY
PERHAPS EUROPE AS WHOLE). THEIR DIFFICULTY, WHICH HAS
BEEN REVEALED IN SEARCHING SELF-EXAMINATION IN DEFENCE
MINISTRY AND FOREIGN OFFICE SINCE SOVIET NOV 27 NOTE,
IS APPARENT HOPELESSNESS IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE OF CHANGING
STATUS QUO (OF DIVIDED GERMANY) TO WESTERN ADVANTAGE IN
FACING UP TO THIS, BRITISH SEEM TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SO
LONG AS WEST CAN REMAIN IN BERLIN, IT CAN AFFORD SOME
POLITICAL RETREAT OR PAY SOME PRICE ELSEWHERE. THIS
WOULD APPEAR TO THEM AS BEING MERELY REALISTIC AND
NOT ENTIRELY UNHOPEFUL SO LONG AS NEW PERIOD OF
NEGOTIATIONS (ALL THE WAY FROM SUMMIT TO TRADE TALKS)
IS SET IN MOTION. IT IS OUR GUESS THAT WHATEVER DETAILS

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--2- 4753, MARCH 13, 7 PM, FROM LONDON

COME UP FOR DISCUSSION IN FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON TALKS, THEY WILL BE RELATED TO THIS UNDERLYING OBJECTIVE. EMB WOULD NOT WISH TO APPEAR UNDULY SKEPTICAL ABOUT BRITISH OBJECTIVES AT THIS POINT, BUT IS STRUCK BY ENERGY WITH WHICH MACMILLAN IS PRESSING A POINT OF VIEW MOTIVATES SO STRONGLY BY AWARENESS OF LIMITATIONS ON DOING ANYTHING ELSE EXCEPT NEGOTIATE AT THIS JUNCTURE.

WHITNEY

FKG/20

(#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.